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BOOK REVIEWS.

FISKE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

The able and just criticisms by Hon. William Wirt Henry of Dr. John Fiske's History of the United States for Schools, in this Magazine for April, inspire me to call attention to some of Fiske's singular omissions to introduce, even by mention of name, several prime factors in very important historical events or episodes which find place in his interesting book. Does he, "a professional hand" (his preface), pursue a uniform consistency in "so much compression?" If he fails in such consistency, particularly if he presents to his readers the actors in less important events than those in which he omits the actors' names, he lays himself open to the charge of being unfair, or of exercising a bad judgment, or of doing hurried work. Not the least charm or usefulness of any historical writing consists in the presentation of both facts and factors. Dr. Fiske will heartily endorse this remark, as witness his admirable grouping of *men* and events "in the making of the government," on page 250.

Our author writes evidently as a patriot; his book is intended for our boys and girls; his energetic publishers, with genuine "Yankee push," are giving it a national circulation. It is, therefore, one of those "books of books" which ought to impartially introduce our historic characters or heroes; the personages themselves are entitled to such recognition, particularly in events which go to the making or the saving of a nation.

Of the most important pre-Revolutionary authority in New England's history, Dr. Fiske remarks: "For intellectual gifts and accomplishments, Hutchinson stood far above all the other Colonial governors. His 'History of Massachusetts Bay' is a work of rare merit, alike for careful research, for philosophical acuteness, and for literary charm."* On page 89 Fiske introduces the names of Carver and Bradford, and says that "the other chief leaders of the Pilgrims were William Brewster and the stout soldier Miles Standish." On the following page are illustrations of three Pilgrim relics—Carver's chair, the cradle belonging to Fuller, and the sword of Standish, with a descriptive foot note. Now Hutchinson's first mention of the Mayflower names is that of "Mr. Edward Winslow, one of the principal undertakers" of the Colony *ab initio* (Edition of 1795, Vol. I, page 13). The only authentic portrait of that band of moral heroes is that of Winslow, now in Pilgrim Hall, at Plymouth, and, although I do not press the point, as a large portrait of Winthrop graces his story of the larger Colony, so a smaller portrait of

* Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography.

a Mayflower governor might fittingly greet the juvenile reader of Fiske's sketch of the initial, if humbler, Colony. For, too, there are 220 illustrations, including many portraits, in this endeavor "to squeeze the narrative of nearly three centuries within the narrow limits of a school book." Among the portraits are a large one of Brandt, others of Andros, Arnold and Santa Anna.

The copious index to Hutchinson, prepared by the historian, J. Win-gate Thornton, and published in 1879, contains twenty references to Winslow, and two to Bradford; to Brewster and Standish none—and I suppose Fiske knows Hutchinson all by heart! In this citation I except Appendix No. I, pages 404-23, which is a summary of events at Plymouth from 1620 to 1692, containings, of course, the Mayflower compact signed by Carver, as governor, by Bradford, next by Winslow,* notwithstanding his youthful years, then by Brewster and the rest of that historic company.

Leaving this work of "careful research," we turn now to a history in particular of Plymouth Colony, that of Francis Baylies, republished in 1866, with notes and additions by Samuel G. Drake, a founder of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. Dr. Fiske sanctions the word "valuable" as applied to this history. Here the references stand: Winslow, 40, Bradford, 38, Standish, 32, and Brewster 9.

We now glance at the "American Biographies," in two volumes by Jeremy Belknap, the founder of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in 1790, of whose famous History of New Hampshire Fiske approves the remark made that it "takes high rank for accuracy." We find the reference record to run: Winslow, 40, (Governor Josiah Winslow, 27), Bradford, 25, Standish, 25, Brewster, 6.

What says Winthrop? He introduces Winslow 17 times, Bradford 11 times, Standish 5 times, and Brewster once in his "History of New England." In the edition so luminously edited by James Savage, king of genealogists, that standard authority refers to Winslow as "a great man in all circumstances." "For foreign employment, his better birth and breeding gave him advantages over his fellow emigrants," as Pal-frey remarks, which Governor Winthrop fully appreciated.

Young's "Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers," embellished with a single portrait, that of Winslow, and with drawings from the original of "the chairs of Winslow, Carver and Brewster," has a copious index, whose references include forty-two to Bradford, forty-two to Winslow, forty to Standish, and thirty-seven to Brewster. Edward Winslow's mission to England in 1646, never to return, after his important services under Cromwell—as it proved—prematurely shortened his record in these Chronicles. But we shall refer to how actively he served the colonists from 1646 to 1654. In 1650 President Steele, of the Society for

*See also Morton's "New England Memorial."

Propagating the Gospel in New England, wrote to the Commissioners of the Colonies that Winslow was unwilling to be longer kept from his family, but that his great acquaintance and influence with members of Parliament required it.

From 1620 to 1640 was the heroic period of Plymouth. Fiske informs us that "the grouping is, however, the main thing." This, for example, from Baylies: "It was only by the consummate prudence of Bradford, the matchless valor of Standish, and the incessant enterprise of Winslow that the Colony was saved from destruction. The submissive piety of Brewster, indeed, produced a moral effect as important in its consequences as the active virtues of the others." (Preface.)

It is all but superogatory for me to outline, in brief language, some important acts of a Pilgrim leader whose Colony with that at Boston made Massachusetts the parent of the Northern States settled by the English, as Virginia was the parent of the Southern States. The publication of Winslow's "Good Newes from New England," in 1624, after his mission to England on behalf of Plymouth, was very instrumental in attracting attention to Massachusetts, and particularly in leading on to that final consummation, the settlement at Boston. Under Winslow as Governor, in 1633, the first English settlement was made in Connecticut, a little above Hartford; in 1635 Winslow went on a mission to England on behalf of Boston and Plymouth, partly to answer the complaints made by Thomas Morton against the former Colony, and partly to inform the government of the intrusions of the French and the Dutch, when he seems to have had in mind a union of the Colonies, like the Confederation of 1643, for he petitioned for a warrant for mutual or united defence. In 1636, under Winslow as Governor, was enacted the elaborate code of laws and statutes that placed the Colony on a stable foundation—a fitting sequel to the initial action taken during his first gubernatorial year to establish the office of constable, and to keep an official journal of proceedings. As the Colony did not wish to disturb its peaceful relations with Massachusetts, Governor Winslow advised Roger Williams, when banished from it, to settle without the limits of either colony. The words of Williams, in view of the changed light in which his banishment is now considered, are significant as well as pathetic: "It pleased the Father of Mercies to touch many hearts with relentings, among whom that great and pious soul, Mr. Winslow melted, and he kindly put a piece of gold into the hands of my wife, for our supply." Sent by Massachusetts to England in 1646, to meet the accusations of Gorton, and to defend that Colony from the charge of religious intolerance, Winslow succeeded in averting censure from the commission, and his book, "Hypocrisie Unmasked," was considered a full vindication of the Colony. Palfrey well says of him that at this time he moved among the British Parliament as one of themselves.

In 1649, Winslow published "the Glorious Progress of the Gospel

amongst the Indians in New England," and by his influence an act was passed on July 19th, incorporating the Society for Propagating the Gospel in New England, which furnished the means to publish Eliot's Translation and other now historical books of precious remembrance and value.

From the morning of March 21st, 1621, when Winslow was deputed to meet Massasoit—to whom he said "that King James saluted him with words of love and peace, and did accept of him as his friend and ally"—or from July, 1621, when he conducted the first English embassy to the New England Indians, and the first attempt to explore the interior, with Stephen Hopkins, he, for a period of thirty years, was pre-eminently the Colony's representative in matters of diplomacy and business, in dealing at home with the Indians and a sister Colony, or abroad with England.

The great authorities cited by me, however just and strong their appreciation of this man, could not anticipate the publication in our day by the English Government, of the Calendar of State Papers in which Winslow's continuous and indispensable services on behalf of Plymouth and the United Colonies are disclosed. Fiske, of course, knows of this publication. Hon. John A. Goodwin, a descendant of Bradford, in his work, "The Pilgrim Republic," has this remark upon its Triumvirs, as he titles them: "Wonderful, indeed, was it that a single shipload *"

* * * should have had not only a Carver, Brewster, and Fuller, but also such a greater trio as Winslow, Standish and Bradford."

Governor Winslow's son, Governor Josiah Winslow, held every important office, civil and military, that Plymouth had at its disposal, was one of the six signers of the new articles of confederation, and was appointed, in 1675, general-in-chief of the colonial forces. Fiske devotes two pages, with an illustration to "The overthrow of the Pequots" introducing the names of the captain of the twenty men from Massachusetts, and of the ninety men from Connecticut; but in his graphic recital of the "terrible Indian war," called King Philip's War, the name of New England's commander-in-chief is not even mentioned! King Philip's signature and his "mark," as scrawled upon the page, are interesting; but our school boys and girls will look in vain for the portrait of the man who was the first native-born Governor in New England, its first native-born general, its first commander-in-chief, and who was the general in command in the most memorable of Indian wars in the settlement of America. "Extreme compression and abridgment," would be Dr. Fiske's reason for such omissions.* Yet in "The Blows of Frontenac" against New England we are treated to the details of the story of Hannah Dustin and Mary Neff, and are told who, it is said, concealed the charter in an oak tree

General John Winslow, the most distinguished military leader of the

* Literally. He so writes to me.

period in New England, with the exception of Sir William Pepperell, who, in 1756, so established himself at Fort William Henry that Montcalm was forced to turn aside to Oswego, obeyed orders in evicting the Acadians. But his name is passed over. Yet on page 164 we are informed of the doings of two "amateur generals," as Fiske calls them.

That greatest naval event on the high seas in the War for the Union, the combat between the Kearsage and the Alabama, and that supremely momentous naval incident, the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac, as described by Fiske, entirely omits to name either of the two commanders in both contests! all of them brave men, and two of them, from Fiske's standpoint, patriots of the truest dye. His inconsistency is shown from the fact that in the various portrayals of naval battles from the Revolution down, he names the respective captains, and sometimes gives their portraits. He heaps glory upon Ericsson, the inventor of the Monitor, as "among the great men who saved the Union and freed the slaves," and prints his likeness from the unique marble bust modeled from life by Kneeland, and now in my possession in my house at Cambridge.* Worden, who helped to complete the Monitor, to be in time to meet its terrible opponent, and who so dexterously handled it, receiving severe wounds, is not so much as named by Fiske, who, of course, overlooks Winslow, of the Kearsage. (Here read what he indorses of Winslow and Worden in Appleton.) In that "utterly unjustifiable" transaction, the taking of Mason and Slidell from the Trent, he twice particularizes the Federal commander.

Simple want of space prevents further illustration of the inconsistency of Fiske in his compressions. No matter how much he knows, how inspiring it is to hear him lecture, how instructive are his portrayals, if he fails here, it is a vital defect—especially in a text-book for our Southern and Northern boys and girls who are entitled to impartially know, not only the facts but the *Factors* by name, in the making or "saving" of our nation. It seems almost incredible that Dr. Fiske does not know that an *equitable* and uniform compression in such a book as his, possessing many merits, is a virtue indispensable to its truth-telling mission to our youth. For Dr. F. A. Hill's addenda we have only words of praise. To him Dr. Fiske owes much that goes to make his history useful in many ways.

WILLIAM COPLEY WINSLOW.

Boston, August 1st.

* Notwithstanding "extreme compression," see also such personal foot notes as those on pages 207 and 370.